

Repaving Goodrich Road: the work begins.

A preliminary meeting was held with officials from Erie County, The Town of Clarence and various design firms that have been working on the repaving of Goodrich Road. I know that many of you have jobs that do not allow you to get away to attend a daytime meeting such as this, so I have recapped the highlights for your reading pleasure. For those of you who do not live on or travel Goodrich Road, this may be a good column to skip. However, for those of you who DO live on or travel Goodrich Road, this column will be **absolutely** fascinating. As I receive more information on the repaving of Goodrich Rd., I will pass it along to you via this column. Here we go!

This meeting was held to discuss basic parameters for preliminary design relative to Goodrich Road. Several months ago, Erie County Department of Public Works (ECDPW) retained the design firm of Clark, Patterson, Lee (CPL) to perform a limited analysis of the existing roadway conditions to produce several options on how to best repair the roadway and provide approximate costs for those options. The first step in that process was to obtain pavement cores and to prepare an evaluation of these cores as well as the soils beneath. After that study was completed, the ECDPW was asked by the County Executive to expand CPL's scope to include a complete analysis, design, and preparation of bid documents for construction, with the work to take place in 2014 & 2015. The preliminary construction budget is \$3,000,000 to be funded **entirely** with Erie County Capital Improvement Project funds. The project involves the rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of Goodrich Road from Lapp Road to Tonawanda Creek Road. Goodrich Road is approximately 18-20 ft. wide with "tank trap" ditches located directly adjacent to the pavement in many areas. The scope includes pavement widening and relocating the ditches away from the edges of pavement. Accident data obtained for the latest three years included a fatality and that more than half the accidents were attributable to the ditches or fixed objects such as trees or utility poles at the pavement edge. The lanes would likely be 11 ft. wide and the paved shoulders would be either 4 ft. or 6 ft. depending upon the traffic volumes, which is generally less than 3,000 vehicles per day. The project includes a full-depth pavement reconstruction. Goodrich Road crosses over Black Creek just north of Wolcott Road. The bridge, which was originally constructed in 1936, is going to be replaced under separate contract. The plan is to have the bridge replaced before the roadway reconstruction begins.

So, there you have it! The project to repave Goodrich Road has been funded and is off to a good start. However, Connor Road is still a mess. If Connor was a Town of Clarence Road, I would pave it tomorrow. But, because the road is owned (and controlled) by Erie County, we have to wait. If and when the Erie County Executive includes the funds in his budget and the Erie County Legislature votes to approve the paving and resurfacing, the project will get completed. While many of the potholes will be filled in this spring and summer, a complete resurface (like we are undergoing on Goodrich Road) is still many years away.

Should you have any questions or positive comments, please feel free to call me at 741-8930, email dhartzell@clarence.ny.us or stop by the Supervisors office at Town Hall. My door is always open!